

REMARKS

Claims 1-26 are pending in this application. Claims 1-11, 17, 18 and 23-26 are withdrawn. By this Amendment, claims 12 and 20 are amended for clarity. No new matter is added by this Amendment. Support for the language added to claims 12 and 20 is found at, for example, Figs. 11 and 12, as well as, page 46, line 14 to page 47, line 21 of the specifications.

I. Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. §102(e)

Claims 12-16 and 19-22 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) over U.S. Patent No. 6,762,785 (Roddy). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

The Office Action asserts that the polarizer 17 of Roddy is a polarization converter. However, Roddy discloses that since green source 12G and blue green source 12BG are unpolarized LEDs, incident light to the polarizer includes optical element whose polarizing direction is perpendicular to a transmission axis of the polarizer. See col. 7, lines 14-16 of Roddy. This optical element is absorbed by the polarizer, resulting in low efficiency in polarization conversion.

Claims 12 and 20 of the present invention, however, recite a polarization converter that comprises a $\lambda/4$ waveplate facing the second light source and a reflection-type polarizing plate facing the wave combining unit for converting the second illumination light. This feature allows for the light from the second light source to be converted with high efficiency. See page 47, lines 20-21 of the specification. Accordingly, the polarization converter of claims 12 and 20 provide a lighting device capable of supplying high-intensity illumination light, or a projector capable of obtaining a bright projected image.

The features of claims 12 and 20, as well as the benefits associated therewith, are not disclosed, taught or suggested by Roddy.

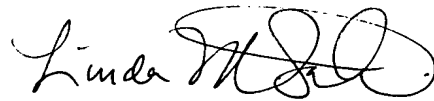
For the foregoing reasons, Roddy fails to anticipate the subject matter of claims 12 and 20, as well as the claims depending therefrom.

II. Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of the pending claims are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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